

Background and Aim

There are two sources of referral into Homerton Colposcopy clinic, direct referrals from the laboratory and referrals from GPs.

In 2019, we've seen a significant increase in GP referrals and consequent pressure on appointments. Our audit aimed to assess the conditions being referred by GPs and look at the outcomes.

Method

100 GP referrals recorded in Electronic Referrals System for October 2019 were analysed.

For each referral: Patient age, referring practice, referral indication, referring smear result, whether the referral was routine/urgent, colposcopic impression, colposcopy smear/biopsy results and referral outcome were assessed.

Results

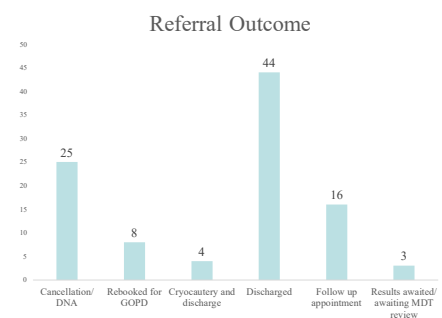
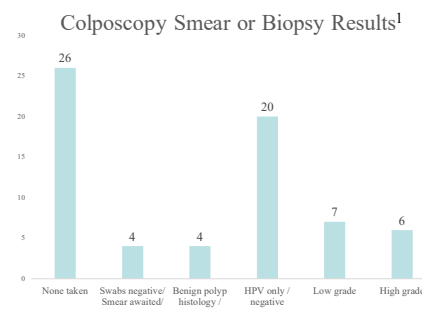
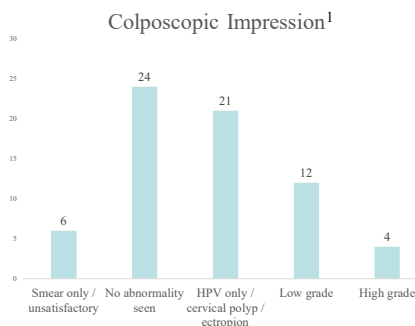
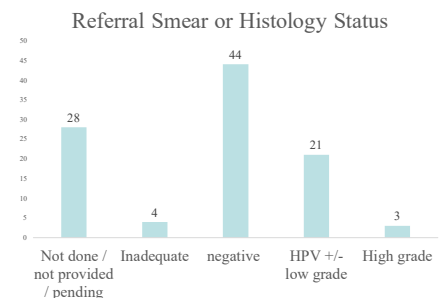
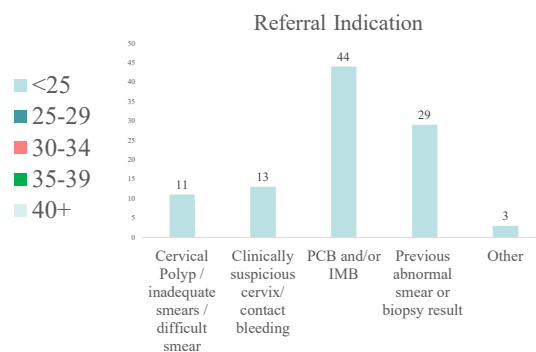
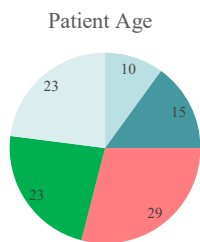
Test results from the 44 patients referred for PCB/IMB:

DNA/cancellations	14
Benign pathology/negative results/none taken	21
HPV only	4
Low grade	4
High grade	0
Unsatisfactory biopsy	1

Test results from the 13 patients referred with clinically suspicious cervix/contact bleeding:

DNA	1
None taken	6
Negative	5
HPV only	1

Results



¹Excludes the 33 patients who were DNAs / Cancellations / Re-booked for Gynaecology Outpatients Department (GOPD)

Conclusion

- There is a high DNA/cancellation rate which needs to be addressed
- A large proportion of patients (29%) are being referred due to previous abnormal smear/biopsy results where they've missed their appointment
- The 11% who had a cervical polyp/inadequate or difficult smear could potentially be seen in community gynaecology
- The 6% women with biopsy/smear proven high grade disease were all referred due to abnormal smears who had missed their original appointment
- In this sample, purely clinical indications for colposcopy, in the absence of an abnormal smear, yielded no significant pathology which suggests that there is a need for GP education
- A GP education session was subsequently organised where this audit and common cases were presented. A GP colposcopy guideline has also been developed. We have re-instated appointment text reminders and re-designed our colposcopy referral proforma